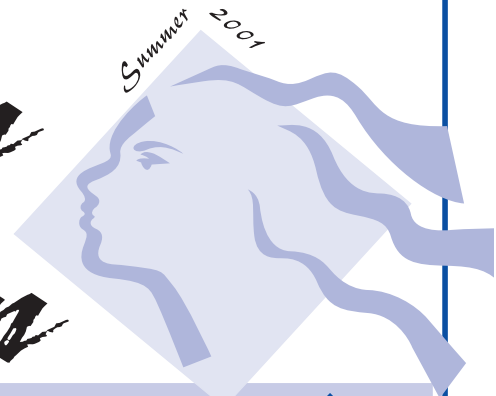


# Michigan Women

A Publication  
of the  
Michigan  
Women's  
Commission

Summer 2001



◆ GOVERNOR JOHN ENGLER ◆ DEPARTMENT OF CIVIL RIGHTS DIRECTOR NANETTE REYNOLDS ◆  
◆ CHAIRWOMAN ANNE NORLANDER ◆ EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR MARTHA TRUSCOTT ◆

## LEGISLATIVE VICTORY FOR RAPE VICTIMS

Prior to May 2001, the length of investigation time for violent and criminal sexual conduct crimes was limited to six years from the time the crime was committed. Fortunately, Lieutenant Governor Posthumus recently signed a bill to remove the statute of limitations from one form of violent crime, while providing extended time for investigation in cases involving DNA evidence.

Senate Bill 1, sponsored by Senator Shirley Johnson (R-Royal Oak), amends the Michigan Code of Criminal Procedure regarding the statute of limitations on violent and criminal sexual conduct crimes and extends opportunity for prosecuting the perpetrator. Senate Bill 1 contains the following provisions: elimination of the statute of limitations in first degree criminal sexual conduct cases, extends the statute of limitations from 6 to 10 years on second, third and fourth degree criminal sexual conduct crimes and attempted murder and manslaughter, and suspends the statute of limitations in crimes where DNA evidence has been collected, but a perpetrator has not been identified.

"For victims of sexual assault, there is no way to eliminate the pain and trauma caused by their attacker," said Senator Johnson. "By using the DNA evidence left behind at the crime scenes police and prosecutors can solve these crimes and put these criminals behind bars where they belong. Only then can we begin to give these individuals some sense of relief."

While watching the news one evening on television, Johnene Barr, a resident of the Royal Oak area, saw Senator Shirley Johnson speaking about the need to pass Senate Bill 1. As a victim of a violent rape in 1990, the statute of limitations prevented any further investigation into Ms. Barr's case after 1996. Ms. Barr and the prosecuting attorney were forced to close the case due to the six year statute of limitations. To help prevent other victims from facing a similar fate, Ms. Barr contacted Senator Johnson and volunteered to testify before the committee, telling her story and advocating for the passage of Senate Bill 1. Ms. Barr said later in an interview with the Michigan Women's Commission regarding Senate Bill 1, "This bill benefits everyone; women and men, girls and boys. By passing this legislation, other people do not have to go through the frustration of finding out that it is too late to look for the perpetrator."



L to R: Johnene Barr, Senator William Van Regenmorter, Lt. Governor Dick Posthumus, Senator Shirley Johnson

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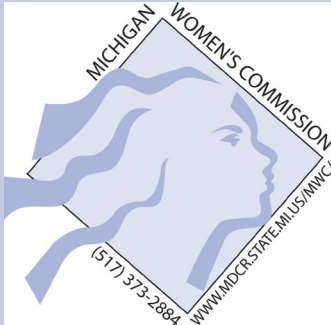
### STAFF

Martha Truscott, Executive Director • Amanda Girth Sural, Program & Outreach Specialist • LuAnn Maurer, Executive Secretary •  
Alissa DeGrow, Student Assistant • Megan Flynn, Student Assistant • Evelyn Zois, Student Assistant

# WHO IS YOUR UNSUNG HEROINE?

We are pleased to announce the culmination of the **FIRST ANNUAL GOVERNOR'S UNSUNG HEROINE AWARDS**. The Michigan Women's Commission invites you to participate in this historical event by nominating the unsung heroine in your life!

The Michigan Women's Commission works to improve the quality of life for Michigan women.



Throughout its 32-year history, the Michigan Women's Commission has worked on a number of issues, including child care, domestic violence, education, elder abuse, equality, GHB, health care, personal safety, pregnancy, self-esteem, stalking, substance abuse, and many more. In working to fulfil our statutory obligation to "Secure appropriate recognition of women's accomplishments and contributions to this state." [M.S.A. 3.400(3)(f)], we are pleased to host the **FIRST ANNUAL GOVERNOR'S UNSUNG HEROINE AWARDS** in March, 2002.

To receive a nomination packet, please contact the Commission office at 517-373-2884.

## Twilight Gathering to Provide Childcare

Did you know the average cost of childcare per week in Michigan ranges from \$100-\$150 per child? (Source: Michigan 4C Association) With the rising cost of childcare, low-income parents are having a hard time finding affordable childcare. It is for this very reason Carol Walters will open her home on July 12th for the 22nd annual Women's Caring Program Twilight Gathering. The event is designed to provide approximately 350 women with an opportunity to enjoy an evening

of sharing with both old and new acquaintances over an exceptional dinner. Along with a good time, the evening will benefit ChildCare Commitment, a nonprofit program to subsidize licensed childcare for one year to low-income families. "This is a program about women helping women and having a great time doing it," said Kathy Wilbur, one of the original founders of the Women's Caring Program. "As a working mom, I've always been very grateful that I could afford quality child care.

The Women's Caring Program now helps other working families to do the same."

The Women's Caring Program (WCP) previously provided preventive health care coverage to over 650 low-income and uninsured children; but the MICHild program in the Michigan Department of Community Health now serves uninsured children. The WCP then turned their focus to supplying licensed childcare to those in need and works through the Michigan 4C Association.

Over the last three years, the WCP has been able to help fund approximately 150 families with childcare. With the knowledge they are helping Michigan families as well as a special time of community with other women, those attending the Twilight Gathering are bound to have a wonderful time. Please call the Michigan Women's Commission at (517) 373-2884 for more information or an invitation to attend the Women's Caring Program Twilight Gathering on July 12th!

## Student Assistant Updates

Megan Flynn and Evelyn Zois recently joined the MWC as student assistants for the summer. Megan, who lives in East Lansing, just completed her first year at Wheaton College in Chicago, Illinois, where she is majoring in communications. Evelyn is a resident of Troy, Michigan and is currently a senior at the James Madison College, Michigan State University, majoring in both international relations and sociology.

Pamela Abbey was a student assistant in our office from May 1999-April 2000. She recently graduated from the James Madison College, Michigan State University with a bachelor of arts in both social and international relations. Pamela accepted a position in Governor Engler's office as an appointments specialist. The Women's Commission congratulates Pamela upon her graduation and new position with Governor Engler!

Congratulations to Alissa DeGrow who graduated in May from the James Madison College, Michigan State University with a bachelor of arts in political theory and constitutional democracy. We are pleased to note, and very fortunate, Alissa will continue to work at the MWC through the summer!

# Commissioner's Corner...

## What Are The Six Career Pathways?

### Arts and Communications

Careers in this path are related to the humanities and performing, visual, literary, and media arts. These include architecture, graphic, interior, and fashion design, writing, film, fine arts, journalism, languages, media, advertising, and public relations.

### Business, Management, Marketing and Technology

Careers in this path are related to the business environment. These include entrepreneur, sales, marketing, computer/information systems, finance, accounting, personnel, economics, and management.

### Engineering/Manufacturing and Industrial Technology

Careers in this path are related to technologies necessary to design, develop, install, and maintain physical systems. These include engineering, manufacturing, construction, service, and related technologies.

### Health Sciences

Careers in this path are related to the promotion of health and treatment of disease. These include research, prevention, treatment and related health technologies.

### Human Services

Careers in this path are related to economic, political, and social systems. These include education, government, law and law enforcement, leisure and recreation, military, religion, child care, social services, and personal services.

### Natural Resources and Agriscience

Careers in this path are related to agriculture, the environment, and natural resources. These include agricultural sciences, earth sciences, environmental sciences, fisheries, forestry, horticulture, and wildlife.

I am pleased to announce the Michigan Women's Commission is partnering with the Michigan Department of Career Development (MDCD) to promote Career Pathways, a component within the Career Preparation System. This partnership is of great importance to me because I have a passion for helping the youth of our state. To do so by assisting them in greater preparation for their careers

excites me, and I hope it interests you too. Concentrating on career goals while in high school enriches the academic experience and adds focus, enabling students to realize there is a practical application to the courses they choose to study.

Career Pathways is a strategy involving students, parents, educators, and employers. They are broad groupings of careers that share similar characteristics. Local school districts have the option of adopting the Career Pathways strategy,



**Commissioner  
Inez Heller Jones**

in full, in part, or not at all. The Commission is working along with MDCD to encourage local school districts to fully participate in Career Pathways by showing the benefits the program has to offer and the successes students, parents, educators and employers have already experienced as a result of this innovative strategy.

For more information about Career Pathways, contact the MWC at 517-373-2884 or the MDCD at 1-866-MY-GOALS or 1-888-605-6722 (TTY).

Correction Notice: Please note the misspelling of Ms. Loney Clinton Gordon's name in the Spring 2001 newsletter. Thankfully, one of our readers pointed out the need for a correction. We are also pleased to add Ms. Gordon was inducted into the Michigan Women's Hall of Fame in 2000.



# LOCAL WOMEN INSPIRE GIRLS FROM THE ARCTIC

On April 10, 2001, 12 women set out from a drifting ice station in northern Russia on a 10 day cross country trek on skis to the North Pole. Traveling more than 150 miles in a barren, yet beautiful landscape, and battling extreme sub-zero conditions, the team hoped to accomplish several goals: to challenge women physically, intellectually, and emotionally. The group would also correspond with students in schools across the nation, establishing a curriculum that is educational and inspiring to young students, especially girls.

The trek to the North Pole, entitled Polar Trek 2001, was organized by WomenQuest, a non-profit organization. Besides meeting above mentioned goals, the group aimed to accomplish some historic firsts. The women of Polar Trek 2001 were the first group of all women to reach the North Pole from a Russian destination. Also, they hoped to test new NASA technology and United States Navy equipment.

During the Trek, the women made contact with several schools via a satellite phone as a supplement to a newly developed educational curriculum, teaching students about group cooperation and empowerment.

After a challenging and demanding journey, the women finally reached the North Pole on April 24, 2001. Using NASA's state-of-the-art technological equipment, the women performed a historic web-cast interview from the North Pole before their flight back to Moscow.

In a post-Polar Trek interview, Sue Carter and Lynn Bartley generously agreed to share their polar adventures with the Michigan Women's Commis-

## BEST WISHES

The Michigan Women's Commission wishes Amanda Girth Sural congratulations and farewell, as she is leaving to attend The George Washington University School of Business and Public Management in the fall. She has been a wonderful and valuable asset to our office, and will be greatly missed.



Chairwoman Norlander presents Amanda Girth Sural with a letter of recognition on behalf of the commission.

sion. Both women expressed great pride, excitement, and relief for the accomplishment of Polar Trek 2001. Despite some minor set backs and impending anxiety that the group may not make it to their destination, Sue and Lynn agreed the trip went well.

Sue Carter, an Associate Professor of the School of Journalism at Michigan State University, explained one of many purposes of WomenQuest and Polar Trek 2001. She asserted women should have opportunity and inspiration to pursue and

accomplish any goal they desire: "Gender should not be a barrier to pursuing goals like Polar Trek. Gender can be a barrier externally imposed or internally created. We hope to inspire girls to do something they may not have had the courage to do."

The group anticipates a positive impact of Polar Trek upon young women, which is important to Lynn Bartley, the Associate

Principal of Haslett High School and Polar Trek participant. When asked about what Polar Trek does for young women, she responded, "I'm hoping that [WomenQuest] makes a statement to young girls that it is O.K. to be strong, it is important to be fit, to take care of our bodies, and to be excited about being strong. It helps girls set goals for themselves, while learning to grow."

Both Sue and Lynn hope to continue their work with young girls through WomenQuest. There will be a interactive CD ROM available soon, documenting the adventures of Polar Trek 2001. Sue feels this will be instrumental in educating young girls about group leadership, decision-making, goal setting, and empowerment. Lynn has already shared her exciting experiences of Polar Trek with several schools. She plans to continue her presentations, and hopes her story of challenge and accomplishment assists young students, especially girls, in reaching their own goals.

If you would like more information about WomenQuest or Polar Trek 2001, please visit the MWC web site at [www.mdcr.state.mi.us/mwc/](http://www.mdcr.state.mi.us/mwc/), or visit [www.womenquest.org](http://www.womenquest.org).

## Race For The Cure: April 21, 2001, Comerica Park, Detroit



Back row: Cynthia Grubbs, Commissioner Hardy, First Lady Michelle Engler, Chairwoman Norlander, Commissioner Koehler, LuAnn Maurer, Alissa DeGrow; Front row: Martha Trusecott, Commissioner Watts, Donna LaBelle, Anne Mervenne

# Report on Domestic Violence Homicides Unveiled

During Domestic Violence Awareness Month in October, 2000, Governor Engler called on Lieutenant Governor Dick Posthumus to lead the Michigan Domestic Violence Homicide Prevention Task Force. In our last newsletter, we reported information to you on the task force and its mission to work toward eliminating domestic violence homicides.

Lieutenant Governor Dick Posthumus submitted the task force report to the Governor on April 19, 2001. "One key finding that remained apparent throughout our investigation was the fact that domestic violence remains the sole responsibility of the abuser," Posthumus said. "These recommendations offer a guide to helping end homicides resulting from domestic violence but recognize that the ultimate responsibility still lies with the batterers and abusers. We must continue to hold them accountable."



The 13-member task force, including a representative of the Michigan Women's Commission, heard testimony and received input from survivors of domestic violence, shelter coordinators, court and law enforcement officials, and family members of homicide victims. Hearings were conducted across the state of Michigan.

The report includes key findings and recommendations in four areas:

1. Increase public awareness and education;
2. Increase victim protections throughout judicial proceedings;
3. Create uniform standards for reporting and tracking domestic violence crimes and offenders; and
4. Enhance domestic violence prevention training for judges and law enforcement.

"Throughout our 33 year history, we have championed the prevention of domestic violence," said Anne Norlander, Chairwoman of the Michigan Women's Commission. "The Michigan Women's Commission applauds Governor Engler for his unending support to end domestic violence in Michigan and in making this state a national leader in domestic violence prevention."

For more information about the task force, or to view the report recommendations, visit the MWC web site at [www.mdcr.state.mi.us/mwc/](http://www.mdcr.state.mi.us/mwc/) or the Lieutenant Governor's web site at [www.migov.state.mi.us/lrgov/](http://www.migov.state.mi.us/lrgov/)

## ¡Atención: la información muy importante!

La Comisión Femenina en el Estado de Michigan, con El Departamento de Salud en Comunidades del Estado de Michigan, y La Comisión de Asuntos Hispánicos, anuncian la llegada de Consejos para tu seguridad y la de tu familia (el folleto de la violencia doméstica) en español. Llama 517-373-2884 para las copias.

## Attention: Very important information!

The Michigan Women's Commission, along with the Michigan Department of Community Health, and the Commission on Spanish Speaking Affairs, is proud to announce the arrival of Safety Tips for You and Your Family (Domestic Violence brochure) in the Spanish language. Please call our office at 517-373-2884 for copies.

# Survey on Women's Issues

In order to best serve women in Michigan, we are looking to YOU, our readers, to find out what issues are of greatest importance. Please rank the following issues in order of importance to you (1=most important, 2=somewhat important, 3=least important) Your answers could play a pivotal role as we deliberate on future projects for the Commission.

- Women's Health
- Economic and Financial Independence
- Personal Safety
- Education and Job Training
- Women, Girls and Technology
- Other (Please expand in a brief paragraph)

Please return the completed survey to the MWC, 124 W. Allegan Street, Suite 110, Lansing, MI 48933, fax it to 517-335-1649, or email the information to [mwcil@state.mi.us](mailto:mwcil@state.mi.us) Thanks for taking the time to complete and *return this survey by Friday, July 13th!*



## We are pleased to announce the Women's Resource Directory is now available online!

Log onto our website [www.mdc.state.mi.us/mwc/](http://www.mdc.state.mi.us/mwc/) to search by county for government offices, employment and educational services, family services, substance abuse services and victim assistance. The MWC will no longer be printing the directory for distribution now that it is available on the Internet. Note: For those agencies listed in our directory, we continue to update additional resources, address, phone, etc. changes, so please fill out the online update form to modify information on your agency.

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## Women's Commission Publications



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Club Drugs: What you should know



Club Drugs: What you and your kids should know



Domestic violence mirror clings



Domestic violence wallet card



Ecstasy: It's a no-brainer



GHB: A vicious scam. A proven killer  
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